



Burglars Loot Laundry Safe Here of \$150 in Cash and Checks

ASK ANNEXATION OF LARGE AREA

Highwaymen Hold up 2 Torrance Men; Chase by Police Ends in Dense Fog

Observations

Shaw Remains Shavian—The Armistice Article and What Gen. Sherman Said—The Mighty Mencken; John Joseph Pershing Talks Politics
By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

NO TRACE LEFT BY YEGGS

Robbers Enter the Plant by Opening Door Through Parcel Slot

PRY OPEN OFFICE SAFE

Police Believe Job Planned and Executed by Professionals

Yeggs Friday night broke into the Torrance Laundry on Border avenue, pried open the office safe, and made away with \$150 in cash and checks aggregating about \$300. No trace of the burglars has been uncovered.

The robbery was discovered by executives of the laundry when the plant was opened Saturday morning. Police were notified immediately.

Chief Calder says that the burglars evidently opened the door to the laundry by reaching up through a slot cut in the wall for parcels. The safe is located in a dark room lighted only by a high window. The safe crackers placed a coat over the aperture under the door, shutting out all signs of light from within.

It was evident, according to the police, that they then took their leisure in prying open the door of the safe.

"The work was obviously that of professionals," said Chief Calder. "On account of the ease with which entrance was made and the high window in the room which contained the safe, the thieves made a simple job of it."

Police believe that the burglars planned the robbery, as they apparently were acquainted with the layout of the building.

Stunts To Live! Legion Benefit Baseball Match

Nate Gronke To Do Stuff at Torrance-Lawndale Tilt Sunday

Nate Gronke, new commander of the Legion post here, and a couple of baseball team will furnish plenty of entertainment at the C. C. M. O. park Sunday afternoon. In the first place Nate has a comedy stunt well known in Legion circles and he's going to stage it on the ball diamond. And in the second place Torrance will engage in nine innings of the great American pastime with Lawndale. The whole program is for the benefit of the Bert S. Crossland post's building fund.

Tickets are available from Legionnaires at 50 cents each. The Torrance team, formerly known as the Torrance Merchants, are providing a fast brand of baseball this year and have dominated their services for the benefit of the Legion.

Last Sunday the Torrance lads took the Welsh Cleaners of Los Angeles into camp. The score was 6 to 5. Harry Atwood, slugging first baseman of the locals, was responsible for four of his team's six runs. He whammed out a home run with none on, and coming to base with the sacks full he contributed a three-bagger.

Shell Will Build Huge Refinery to Cost 18 Millions

The Shell Oil Company has announced plans for the construction of the world's largest refinery, to be located east of Main street and southwest of Gardena. The new plant will cost about \$18,000,000, it is stated.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW declined to accept the Nobel prize. Whereupon there is a great hullabaloo. We see no reason for the uproar. If the interesting Irishman wishes to turn down the proffered money, it is his own business. He has enough money anyway. And if he believes that prizes for literary work tend to encourage writers to aim at winning them, we are inclined to agree with him. We go to experts these days for opinions on all matters. Sinclair Lewis and Shaw have both turned down proffered prizes. Certainly these two men qualify as literary experts. And certainly again, if writers don't want prizes, who are we to force prizes upon them?

AMONG other things in connection therewith, numerous mild criticisms were received by the writer for putting so many Hells in his sketch about Armistice Day. The criticism, all of it tendered with the utmost friendliness, was anticipated. Hence an answer was ready in all cases.

There may be some who didn't like the Hells but didn't say so. To them is this response given.

IN preparing that sketch I strove for realism. No sketch designed to give a true impression of soldiers in the field is realistic unless it contains a Hell or two. It was my intention to give an impression of the condition of the soldiers of the First Army in the Argonne, just before and on Armistice Day—to convey an idea of their physical and mental condition. To do so it was almost essential that I write into the fabric of the sketch a few mild cusswords. And to write into the fabric of the sketch a few mild cusswords, I felt any soldier who was there will assure you that if my realism fell short in any particular, it was because of the mildness of the Hells. War itself is Hellish. To write of war as one would write of a tea-party would be myrror. The very critics who softly objected to the Hells said the sketch gave them a splendid picture. Well, to the Hells said the sketch gave them a splendid picture. Well, to that's what the writer tried to give them. And if they got what he intended them to get, he has no apologies for the mild cussing.

WHY in the world should we try to take our war with a sugar coating? It was altogether a nasty mess, Hellish in every detail. And our soldiers swore constantly and with feeling.

To know that soldiers swear, volubly is an argument against war rather than a testimonial in favor of cussing. We didn't put the Hells in because we believe that men should swear—but because SOLDIERS DO SWEAR.

So our chief apology goes to the soldiers who know that of their sketch was too mild, with a secondary excuse-me to those of our readers who found the test a bit vigorous.

Just the same—Sherman was right.

HO! HUM! Harry Carr thinks H. L. Mencken is a boor. Dear me! And what, I would like to know, does the mighty Mencken think of Harry Carr and the rest of his assinine critics? Probably he thinks of them not at all.

Mencken makes everybody mad—that is, everybody who reads his stuff. At the same time he is today's greatest analyst of American life and institutions. He shocks the Puritan that resides somewhere in all of us and at the same time shows himself occasionally as almost ultra-Puritanical.

I have no patience with persons who will not admit greatness in anyone who disagrees with the standard views of affairs. Even when Mencken, in his inimitable way, is proving that newspaper men are the most astute creatures in American life, I marvel at the artistry and strength of his prose and almost agree with the thoughts couched in his text.

MENCKEN is today's foremost de-bunker. As such he is making a deep dent in American life. He is not nasty. He is not filthy. He is not sacrilegious. But he lambastes hypocrisy as it never has been lambasted. He belabors sham as it has never been belabored. And he whacks the American tendency for standardizing everything as it never can be whacked by anyone else.

Years of reading Mencken, first as editor of the Smart Set and now as guide of the destinies of the incomparable American Mercury, have convinced me that he is the most trustworthy hound of bunk in the world—George Bernard Shaw not excepted.

OF COURSE all of us follow some line or several lines of bunk in our daily lives. Mencken makes us realize it. In doing so the sage of Baltimore shocks us sometimes to our very shoelaces. But after the shock we must admit that much of what he has so forcibly said has been more true than untrue. Wherefore such inept writers as Harry Carr and myself will do well not to criticize the mighty Mencken lest we stand before our public as fox-terriers yelping at a St. Bernard.

GEN. JOHN JOSEPH PERSHING, erstwhile commander of the well-known A. E. F. brought Kivansians bolt upright in their seats at Chicago the other day when, for the first time since the war, he started talking politics.

Said the general: "If the time ever comes when public office can be virtually bought and sold, then the downfall of the Republic is not far off."

"In the light of recent events in certain states, some of our citizens would modify the methods of selecting candidates for office. If the present system encourages or permits contribution of inordinate sums by wealthy candidates or their supporters, it should receive the most careful scrutiny by honest citizens."

"It is too often the case that men of standing and ability shun public office because of the difficulties they are likely to encounter through the trickery of cheap politicians."

ALMOST every citizen will agree with the general. But that isn't the point. Pershing talked politics. What does that mean? The commander of the A. E. F. is an able and astute man. He has consistently declined to run for office. But politicians the country over read the general's speech and wondered.

We must remember that John Joseph Pershing is the only hero-warrior of the United States who has not been President, or at least a serious candidate for office.

And he is today talking politics—decent, clean politics. The country certainly could do worse than have Pershing for President. He would at least be an order-giver rather than an order-taker.



Thanksgiving

Tomorrow a nation will bow its head in reverence before the miracle of the bounteous harvest, offering thanks to the eternal Worker of Wonders for the generous gifts that bloom on the bosom of the earth.

To every man and woman, to every boy and girl, Thanksgiving Day should be pregnant with deepest meaning. It must be something more than an occasion for feasting and merrymaking. Its true significance is expressed only when the hearts of its observers are touched with honest gratefulness at the bounteous gifts which the hand of Providence has flung over this great continent for the harvest of mortal men.

Let us then take to our hearts the real meaning of Thanksgiving Day. Knowing that never in all history has Nature been so kind to a continent of people, let us render thanks fitting unto the unprecedented generosity of Our Lord.

To feast? Yes. But to feast with a commingling of happiness and humanity, an admixture of merriment and thankfulness. That is our privilege and our duty.

Thanksgiving Day marks one of the most beautiful traditions of the people of this nation. It is an institution which was born with the first dawn of our American day.

It was conceived in sacred sincerity, and reared by the devotion of grateful men and women. It is one of our rich heritages.

Let us give thanks for our gifts in a manner that befits the tradition and true meaning of the day.

School Receives Gifts as Pupils Stage Torrance History Pageant

The history of Torrance was depicted in an interesting and excellently directed pageant by pupils of the elementary school before a capacity audience in the new elementary auditorium last Friday night.

On Thursday night the presentation of the pageant was canceled on account of the failure of the lighting system to function. Despite this drawback, presentations of gifts to the school were made by officers of Torrance organizations.

On behalf of the Women's Club Mrs. Joe Stone presented pictures of Wagner and Beethoven. Nate Gronke presented a picture of Gen. John J. Pershing from the Bert S. Crossland Post of the American Legion.

A moving picture projection machine was presented by W. Harold Kingsley on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Kiwanis Club donated a silk American flag. Alfred Gourdier made the presentation. Charles Ver Jones presented Rotary's gift of two baskets of plants. Mrs. George P. Shidler, on behalf of the Parent-Teacher Association, donated a dozen coats for the use in rest periods of undernourished children.

Ray Sleepy, president of the High School Student Body, presented on behalf of that organization two baskets of flowers.

Mrs. Helen Berry for the school acknowledged the gift to the institution of a bird house and California song birds from Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Post in memory of their daughter Polly. Mrs. Berry was Polly's teacher.

L. W. Hull and George Rowe, proprietors of the R. & H. service station at Acacia and Narbonne avenue, have acquired from Harry Hutchins the station at Narbonne avenue and Brethren street. Hull is managing the Brethren street station, while Rowe remains at Acacia street.

Gardena Woman Is Slightly Hurt
Mrs. George Bennett of Gardena was mildly cut and bruised last Thursday when the car in which she was riding was in collision with one driven by David Spring of Santa Monica. The accident occurred at Claverly and Post avenue.

CITY DAD HELD UP FRIDAY

W. M. Brooks and Cousin, S. E. Moore, Lose \$13, But Save Watches

BEN OLSEN EMPTIES GUN

Chases Bandits But Loses Fugitives in Dense Bank of Fog

Brandishing automatic pistols, two bandits waylaid City Trustee Willis M. Brooks and his cousin, S. E. Moore of Washington, D. C., at the corner of Cabrillo avenue and Carson street last Thursday night, relieved them of \$13, and figured only a few minutes later as fast-running fugitives in a thrilling gun chase during which Officer Ben Olsen, crack shot of the local force, emptied his gun.

Mr. Brooks and Mr. Moore, who is spending the winter here as a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, left the Brooks home on Eldorado avenue about 10 o'clock to get some safety razor blades. At about 10:30 two men stepped out of a doorway near the Debra radio store and ordered them to hold up their hands.

Brooks Joshua Bandits
While the two citizens complied with the command the bandits went through their pockets, taking all the cash they found. They took \$12 from Mr. Moore and \$1 from Mr. Brooks. Both Mr. Brooks and Mr. Moore had valuable watches on their persons, the timepieces being family heirlooms. While the bandits were busy searching his pockets Mr. Brooks "joshed" them.

"What are two nice-looking chaps like you pulling a stunt like this for?" he asked. "Are you hungry, or what?"

The joshing delayed the searching process and the bandits became nervous and entirely overlooked the two valuable watches.

As soon as the highwaymen left Mr. Brooks ran to the corner of Marcellina and Sartori avenues and leaping into the police car with Officer Olsen rushed to Carson street and turned on Gramercy, where they sighted the two highwaymen.

Believes One Hit
When the police car stopped the two men took flight between two houses, running toward Cabrillo avenue. Olsen and Brooks gave chase and Olsen emptied his gun at the fugitives. The officer and Mr. Brooks were gaining on the two men when they reached a heavy fog bank on Cabrillo avenue. The fugitives disappeared under cover of the fog. Officer Olsen says he believes he hit one of the men, who, he declared, staggered after one of the shots during the chase.

One of the bandits was about six feet tall and wore a leather jacket. The other was of a short and stocky build.

WILDCAT PROGRESSES

Steady daily penetration continues at Matteson No. 1 well of the Southern California Drilling Company in the Rancho Sausal field near Torrance, and the well has reached a depth of 3227 feet, according to E. W. Riggle, president of the company. Rapid progress is being made following a slow period caused by unusually hard formation.

A hard going was encountered for a distance of 500 feet recently, and at one time six days were required to pierce six feet of rock and sand. The well gives good showings of oil and gas.

Tolson and Fix Annual Picnics For Turkey Day

Employes and Families Will Eat Gobblers as Companies' Guests

Three hundred pounds of the best turkey available will be one of the main attractions at the joint picnic of the Tolson Transportation and the M. J. Fix Companies at Orange County Park Thanksgiving Day.

The event will be the fourth annual outing for the Tolson company and the first for the newly organized Fix company.

At least 200 will be in attendance at the big event, at which employes and the families of both companies will be guests. There will be races and contests and a ball game.

The Tolson offices will be closed all day Thursday. The Fix company service stations will close at 1 p. m.

Shop Early, Mail Early, Is Advice Of Torrance Men

This was the joint admonition issued to the public by Carl L. Hyde, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and Alfred Gourdier, Torrance postmaster.

Mr. Hyde is in touch with the local retailing situation and reports that local merchants are well stocked for a big Christmas trade. Mr. Gourdier stresses the importance of early mailing in order to be sure of delivery before Dec. 25.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Post motored to Berkeley Saturday, where they attended the California-Stanford football game.



10-ACRE TRACT IS INVOLVED

Park Residents Petition Torrance Trustees Special Election

BEACH INCLUDED

Includes Oceanage Between Clifton and Palos Verdes

Residents of Meadow Park tract west of Torrance yesterday petitioned City Clerk A. H. a petition asking the Trustees to call an election at they might vote on the of annexing to Torrance.

Stipulated in the petition proposed consolidation with aggregates about 4000 almost half the present city. The tract proposed consolidation in west and Torrance and extends from west to the ocean, including a mile of beach frontage Clifton and the Palos Verdes.

place the assessed value of the property in the amount of \$2,000,000. The territory of Lomita and Palos Verdes, but takes in the ranch and the large property.

On Sign Petition
on filed yesterday was 15 citizens. It is expected the Board of Trustees without delay to consider the petition.

of calling an election in the district of the petition declare have been considering of joining with Torrance than a year. They they are now paying and 55 cents more, per now prevail in Torrance economic factor, it is them to circulate the petition consolidation with

edings thus started are their kind in the Torrance. Citizens sought of territory west of the ar, but the election was immediately after, a second was held and carried by of consolidation, only being registered against it. This annexation request substantial reduction of Torrance and lowered the not only by property-Torrance, but also by property in the annexed

line Comment
ment on the new request annexation election was local officials, who deat if the residents and bers of the big tract of the Pacific ocean which Torrance, an election should be called in com with the petition to allow to register their wishes, the property included in proposed for con- unimproved, but con- sistent land for future development. The con- Hollywood-Palos Verdes way and boulevard di- ssects the tract, which and high ground sited some such develop- ment big highway to usher in a new class development.

FOOD, APRON SALE

Food and apron sale held in Turner's shoe repair shop, Dec. 3, by the Women's Association.

which begins at 9 a. m. and runs all day.

Use us before you buy. Lumber Co.—Adv.